



News Release

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Public Hearings Scheduled on the Texas Hornshell Listing Proposal *Comment period on the proposal reopened for 30 days*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will hold public hearings in Laredo, Texas and Carlsbad, New Mexico on the August 2016 [proposal](#) to list the Texas hornshell as endangered. We are also reopening the public comment period on the listing proposal for 30 days.

Once abundant throughout rivers in southern New Mexico and the Rio Grande basin in Texas and Mexico, the Texas hornshell, a freshwater mussel, has experienced a dramatic decline. Today, it is the only native mussel remaining in New Mexico and is scarce in Texas, occupying only 15% of its historical U.S. range. River fragmentation and loss as a result of impoundments and reduced water quality and quantity are negatively impacting the Texas hornshell and other freshwater mussels across the Southwest. After thoroughly reviewing the best available science, on August 10, 2016, the Service proposed to protect the mussel as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

The Service will hold two public informational meetings/public hearings to gather public comments on the listing proposal. Public informational meetings will consist of an Open House/Exhibit Review that will provide the attendees an opportunity to learn more about the Texas hornshell and the listing proposal. The formal public hearings will provide the public an opportunity to provide written or oral comments on the proposal. The dates and locations for the informational meetings/public hearings are as follows:

Tuesday, June 13th

Informational meeting – 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Public hearing – 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Student Center Ballroom #203
Texas A&M International University
5201 University Blvd.
Laredo, Texas 78041

Thursday, June 15th

Informational meeting – 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Public hearing – 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Pecos River Village Conference Center
711 Muscatel Ave.
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220

The Service is committed to providing access to this meeting for all participants. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting services, close captioning, or other accommodation needs to the Texas Coastal Ecological Services Field Office at 281-286-8282, TTY 800-877-8339 with your request no later than 1 week before the meeting dates.

You may obtain copies of the proposed rule and Species Status Assessment Report at <http://www.regulations.gov> at Docket No. FWS–R2–ES–2016–0077, or by mail from the Texas Coastal Ecological Services Field Office, 17629 El Camino Real #211, Houston, TX 77058. The Service encourages the public to review and provide comments on the listing proposal during the 30-day public comment period. Written comments may be submitted by one of the following methods:

(1) *Electronically*: Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search box, enter FWS–R2–ES–2016–0077. You may submit a comment by clicking on “Comment Now!”

(2) *By hard copy*: Submit by U.S. mail or hand-delivery to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS–R2–ES–2016–0077; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–3803.

Written comments must be received by June 29, 2017.

America’s fish, wildlife, and plant resources belong to all of us, and ensuring the health of imperiled species is a shared responsibility. We’re working to actively engage conservation partners and the public in the search for improved and innovative ways to conserve and recover imperiled species.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov/>. Connect with our [Facebook page](#), follow our [tweets](#), watch our [YouTube Channel](#) and download photos from our [Flickr page](#).

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